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Credentials for a 'Blacklist'

The report of a "blacklist" maintained by the U.S. Information Agency has caused me much distress.

I am an editor of The Nation, surely not a weekly looked upon with favor in the White House. I am chairman of the Policy Council of the New Democratic Coalition, which no one will confuse with the Coalition for a Democratic Majority. The Washingtonian was kind enough to term me "America's leading Marxist sociologist," a compliment tempered only slightly by that monthly's lack of expertise in Marxist thought. I am regularly host to leaders of the European peace movement and its left. When I was in Europe many years ago, I was a founder of the new left—before it reached these shores. The Nixon administration honored my activities by intercepting my correspondence (CIA) and by ordering a special tax audit (FBI and IRS). Charles Wick and the USIA, however, in 1982 dispatched me to West Germany and to Israel to lecture.

With the publicity given to the "blacklist" my standing as a right-thinking member of the left has been cast into serious doubt. At the very least, I consider that I am owed an apology.

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